Title: Need for concrete policy guidelines to tackle the recurring problem of terrorist groups taking hostage of innocent people. - Laid

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): International terrorism as a problem is proving a great menace in different parts of the world. Taking hostages of innocent people is one of its forms. India has suffered this scourge many a time in the past like the case of the daughter of Mufti Mohammed Syed, presently Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and the hijacking case of Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Kandhar.

The Government of India has not laid any clear-cut policy to deal with hostage crisis. A Crisis Management Group was set up to deal with such crisis. It is not known whether it is still functioning.

At present three Indian truck drivers have been taken hostages in Iraq. The abductors are putting demands for ransom. It is more than three weeks when they were taken hostages. The families of Indian hostages are passing through great tension. It seems that the Government is not suitably equipped to handle a crisis of this nature.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to lay down concrete policy guidelines to deal with such hostage issues immediately to avoid any mismanagement in dealing with such crisis.